

April 3, 1984

LB 341

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner. You have two and a half minutes left, Senator.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would like to remind you prior to this session this kind of legislation would have carried an appropriation and the rate would have been adjusted to accommodate it by the Board of Equalization and the reason for the adjustment would have been directly tied to the passage of the bill. That is really all I see happening here is that in the event the bill is enacted it obviously must have adequate funds provided by placing this particular rate adjustment which goes to the general fund, that it will not only provide the funds for the current fiscal year, but that half cent should accumulate adequate funds to take care of at least next year's built-in increase as the bill calls for. Those who have questioned or have commented at least on what the Governor may or may not do, I think he explained his first vetoes as being somewhat arbitrary to come up with some dollar amount. Obviously he can arbitrarily veto this bill if he wishes, but I do think that the bill will address the last hope probably to address some relief on property tax coming up and some relief for the property owner in the support of public education. I may not like every aspect, I am sure none of us do, every aspect of the allocation proposed in LB 341, but there is no way to write an allocation formula that everyone likes or supports and it is fairly reasonable. It has been around two years. A bill that has been around that long has had a lot of opportunity for adjustment. Finally, I think that the adjustment in August of the sales tax is reasonable, the route to go. I would suggest one other thing. In my case at least, this is election year and I have been around long enough to know that you do not propose or support an increase in a tax in election year unless you really believe it is right. Now I happen to believe that it is really right to try and support public education with less emphasis on property tax. Now I am not uncomfortable about defending that, not only in an election year but any other time. The only time I get uncomfortable is if we are going to inadequately support...